computers and various parts and accessories thereof, have also been brought down substantially and this has helped in containing smuggling.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Proposed Air University in Hyderabad

4437. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether any proposal to convert Hyderabad based Central Training Establishment (CTE) into an Air University with technical assistance from the International Civil Aviation Organisation is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposed University and what benefits are likely to be derived therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Filling up of SC/ST vacancies in AI

4438. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies of pilots earmarked for SC/ST candidates and others standing unfilled with Air India as at present;

(b) the number of accumulated backlog vacancies for SC/ST candidates lying unfilled for over two years and the attempts made to fill up the same, indicating the advertisements issued and follow up action; and

(c) how many of them have been filled with non SC/ST candidates?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) At present there is a backlog of 35 SC/ST Co-Pilots and Trainee Pilots in Air India. Special recruitment exclusively for SC/ST and OBC candidates was undertaken for which advertisements were released in September, 1994 and November, 1996 leading to selection of 8 SC, 1 ST and 8 OBC Trainee Pilots. A campus recruitment was also held at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademy in April, 1996 leading to appointment of 2 SC and 1 OBC Trainee Pilots.

(c) None of the vacancies of pilots earmarked for SC/ST have been filled with non SC/ST candidates.

सेन्दूर होटल को बन्द करना

4439. **श्री अखिलेश दास:** क्या नागर विमानन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार ने एयर इंडिया द्वारा संचालित सेन्दूर होटल को तत्काल बन्द करने के संबंध में प्रबंधकों द्वारा दिए गए प्रस्ताव का अनुमोदन कर दिया है;

(ख) क्या प्रबंधकों ने दिल्ली, मुम्बई और चेन्नई में सेन्दूर होटलों के कार्यालयों को बन्द करने का निर्णय लिया है;

(ग) विदेशी पर्यटकों को निवास और अन्य सुविधाएं देने के लिए एयर इंडिया ने किए प्रकार की वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की है; और

(घ) उपर्युक्त निर्णय के लिए कौन-कौन से कारक उत्तरदायी हैं?

नागर विमानन मंत्री (श्री अनंत कुमार): (क) और (ख) भारतीय होटल निगमन जो सेंटॉर होटल समूह का संचालन करता है, के प्रबंधक-वर्ग द्वारा कोई ऐसा प्रस्ताव प्रस्तुत नहीं किया गया है।

(ग) और (घ) ये प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Leasing of 4 Jet Aircrafts from Foreign Airlines

4440. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRAN REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new policy is against 4 Jet Aircrafts leased from foreign airlines; and

(b) if so, the impact of termination of lease agreements of such Jet Airways operations?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) In accordance with the policy on NRI/OCB and foreign equity participation in the domestic air transport sector, foreign equity participation of foreign airlines, directly or indirectly, is prohibited. consequently guidelines have been issued in this regard Vide AIC No. 4/1998 on 17th July, 1998, which, inter-alia, prohibit leasing of aircraft from any foreign airlines or its subsidiary. However, wet leasing of an aircraft for a short term period is allowed from any source subject to the fulfilment of the guidelines issued by the Government/DGCA.

Aircraft leased by Jet Airways and other operators not conforming to these guidelines cannot operate in the domestic sector.

Pilot licence issued by Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udaan Academy

4441, SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who had flying training in "Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Udaan Academy" in the years 1995 to 1996 and 1996 to 1997; and

(b) the number of persons who have been awarded commercial pilot licences and commercial helicopter licences?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) A total of 48 and 60 (including 37 persons from previous financial year) persons were imparted flying training by the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively.

(b) A total of 23 persons were awarded Commercial Pilot Licences during the years 1995-96 and 1996-97 by IGRUA. No person was awarded Commercial Helicopter Pilot Licences during these years.

Wet Leasing of Aircraft

4442. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria considered by Government in providing permission to airlines companies to take aircraft on wet lease;

(b) the number of aircraft which are on wet lease with different airlines operating in India, with company-wise breakup; what was the urgency to hire them;

(c) whether any cost-benefit analysis of wet leasing of aircraft being done;

(d) if so, what are the findings; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Wet-leasing of aircraft is not permitted except in emergency situations like:— (i) Existing aircraft of an operator is grounded for maintenance checks; (ii) Existing aircraft is involved in some accident/incident resulting in reduction in capacity of an operator; (iii) Reduction in capacity due to expiry of lease or delay in finalisation of new lease agreement; (iv) For revival of sick operators who should have an agreement with the lessor initially for wet lease for a period not exceeding six months and thereafter automatic conversion to dry lease for the remaining period of lease.

However, in all such cases, there shall be no increase in the capacity of the operator and the wet lease operations in the country shall be subject to conditions stipulated by the DGCA for operation, maintenance and safety aspects.

(b) M/s Jet Airways has been permitted to wet-lease two aircraft for short-term to meet the capacity shortages on account of grounding of (i) one aircraft that met with an accident recently and (ii) safety inspection checks required for all such aircraft (B-737-300//400/500) as advised by the manufacturer, the Boeing Company.

(c) to (e) Cost benefit analysis is done by the airlines concerned.